

[Claims]

1. Use of an aqueous physiologically compatible solution in which a dye which does not represent a vital dye and is biocompatible is dissolved, for the production of a dye agent for coloring cells in the human or animal body.

2. Use as set forth in claim 1 wherein the dye agent is used for coloring delimiting or separating membranes, in particular in the eye.

3. Use as set forth in claim 1 wherein the dye agent is used for coloring membranes which are to be removed from an organ of the body, in particular the eye.

4. Use as set forth in one of claims 1 through 3 wherein the dye agent is used for coloring the lens capsule of the eye

5. Use as set forth in one of claims 1 through 3 wherein the dye agent is used for coloring the lens anterior capsule in a cataract operation on the eye.

6. Use as set forth in one of claims 1 through 3 wherein the dye agent is used for coloring membranes which have occurred due to disease in or at an organ of the body, in particular the retina of the eye.

7. Use as set forth in claim 6 wherein the dye agent is used for coloring epiretinal membranes.

8. Use as set forth in one of claims 1 through 7 wherein the dye agent is used for coloring a viscoelastic solution used in particular in ophthalmological surgery.

9. Use as set forth in one of claims 1 through 8 in which the dye is dissolved in a neutral or weakly acid or weakly alkaline buffer.

10. Use as set forth in one of claims 1 through 9 wherein the dye is dissolved in a buffer with a pH-value of between 6.8 and 7.8.

11. Use as set forth in one of claims 1 through 10 wherein a phosphate, hydrogen carbonate or citrate buffer is used.

12. Use as set forth in one of claims 1 through 11 wherein the concentration of the dye in the buffer solution is between 0.3 and 2.5 g/l, in particular about 1.2 g/l.

13. Use as set forth in one of claims 1 through 12 wherein a triphenylmethane dye is used as the dye.

14. Use as set forth in one of claims 1 through 13 wherein patent blue V is used as the dye.

15. Use as set forth in one of claims 1 through 13 wherein brilliant blue R is used as the dye.

16. A dye for coloring cells in the human or animal body comprising an aqueous, physiologically compatible solution in which at least one dye which does not represent a vital dye and is biocompatible is dissolved.